白の聖国物語 第四十七回
原作：白沢戌亥 / 漫画：不二まーゆ
W-WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
PLEASE HAVE MERCY!
THERE ARE STILL YOUNG CHILDREN WHO HAVE YET TO UTTER THEIR FIRST WORD IN MY CLAN... AT THE VERY LEAST SPARE THEM...

THAT
CANNOT
BE DONE
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I BEG OF YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS!
I CAN UNDERSTAND MY OWN EXECUTION, AS THE CRIME OF LETTING A FOREIGN ARMY ONTO OUR LANDS IS SERIOUS,
HEIDEL,
BUT AS THE HEAD OF MY HOUSE, I MUST AT LEAST SAVE THE YOUNG CHILDREN!

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY, BUT IN THIS CONFLICT,
JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE UTTERED THOSE SAME WORDS?
THAT'S...
ENOUGH.
NO WORDS YOU COULD UTTER WOULD AMOUNT TO ANYTHING MORE THAN BETRAYAL TO THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ROBBED OF THEIR FUTURES.

GH...

WHAT I DID WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM HIM.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE ACTIONS I TOOK AS A RESULT OF MY FAMILY BEING ENDANGERED BY THE KING ENDED UP LEADING TO THE DEATHS OF OTHER FAMILIES...

I'M SORRY, EVERYONE...

WHY DON'T I INSTEAD MAKE YOU ENDURE THE PUNISHMENT YOU WOULD FIND MOST UNBEARABLE?

YES?
HEIDEL.

I WILL BEAR YOUR SINS.
!
LORD HEIDEL C RITTENHEIM EIMELSIA,
YOU WILL LOSE THE EIMELSIA NAME, YOUR PEERAGE, ALL OF YOUR LANDS, FORFEIT 80% OF YOUR FORTUNE,

YOUR HIGHNESS!
SERVE AS PRIME MINISTER.
AND AS OF THIS MOMENT
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AND WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH THAT?
PARDON ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT THE POPULACE WILL NOT ACCEPT THAT.

WHILE THE POPULACE MIGHT BE AGAINST THIS DECISION,
NOW THAT THE KING HAS BEEN REMOVED, YOU ARE THE PRIMARY EXAMPLE OF A LOYAL SUBJECT, MR. HEIDEL.
THEIR ANGER COULD ALSO SERVE AS GUIDANCE.
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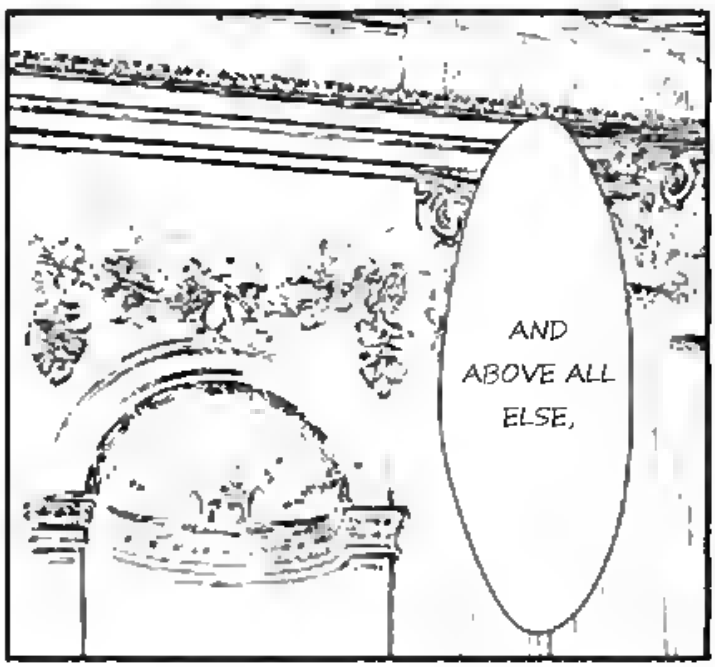
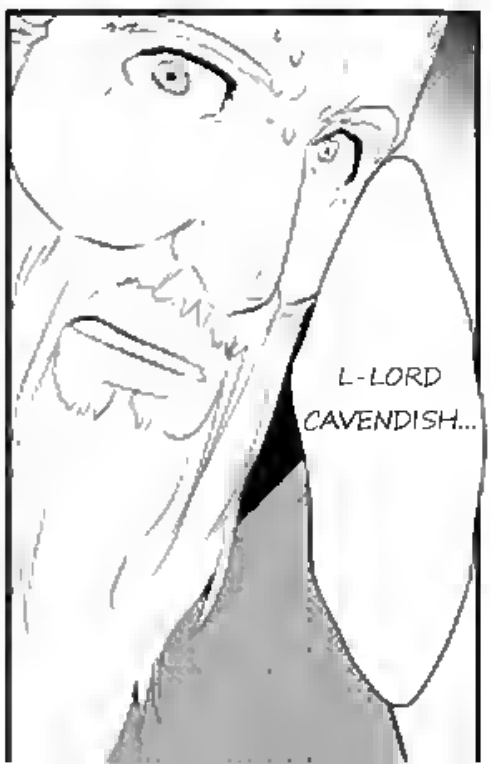

AND ABOVE ALL ELSE,


L-LORD CAVENDISH...

YOU ARE TRULY LOYAL, LORD RITTENHEIM.
IF YOU WERE TO REFUSE THIS OFFER HERE, HIS HIGHNESS THE REGENT WOULD BE DISGRACED.
AND IF YOU WERE TO NOT SHOW ANY RESULTS AS THE PRIME MINISTER, THAT TOO WOULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE REGENT'S REPUTATION.
COULD YOU TRULY STOMACH SUCH HUMILIATION?
—

I MUST SHOW THE WORLD THAT HIS HIGHNESS DID NOT MAKE THE WRONG CHOICE AND TO SHOW RESULTS THAT THE PEOPLE WILL ACCEPT.
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結果
な
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW...
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は
THAT'S RIGHT...
その
だ…
I WILL OFFER THIS YOUNG LORD WHAT TIME MY BODY STILL HAS LEFT IN IT!
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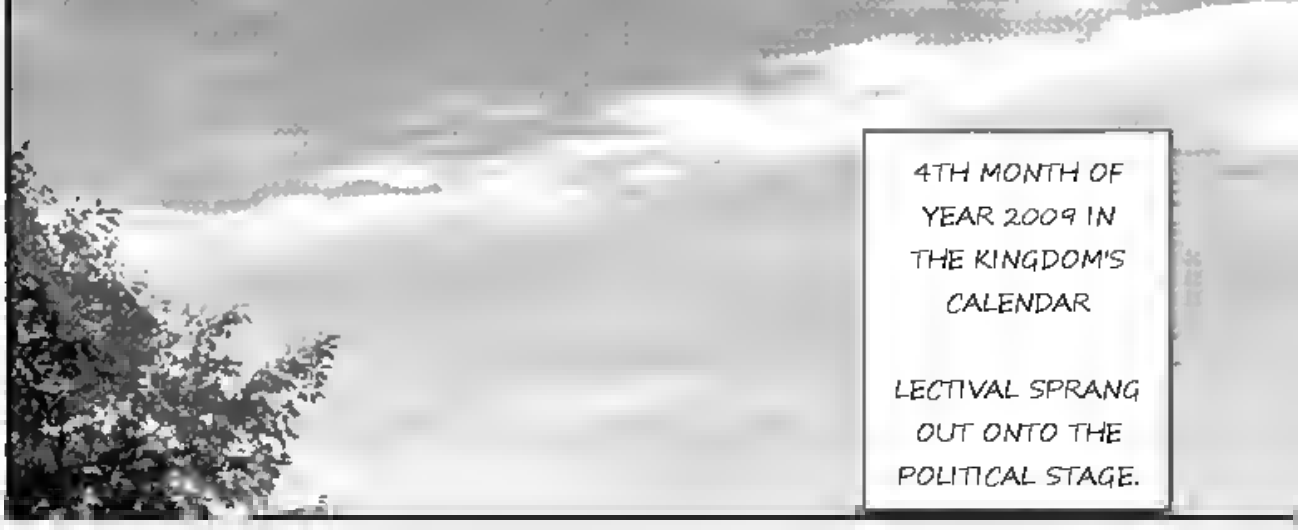
どうぞ！
IN HONOR OF THE REGENT!
I HUMBLY ACCEPT THE POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER.

HEIDEL'S ABUNDANT CONNECTIONS AND POLITICAL ABILITIES WERE AN IMPORTANT POWER FOR THE KINGDOM,
BUT LECTIVAL'S POLITICAL FOUNDATION WAS STILL UNSTABLE AND GIVING SUCH A POSITION TO A MAN THE POPULACE VIEWED AS A CRIMINAL WAS A BIG GAMBLE.
THERE IS ONE MORE THING I NEED TO TELL YOU ALL:

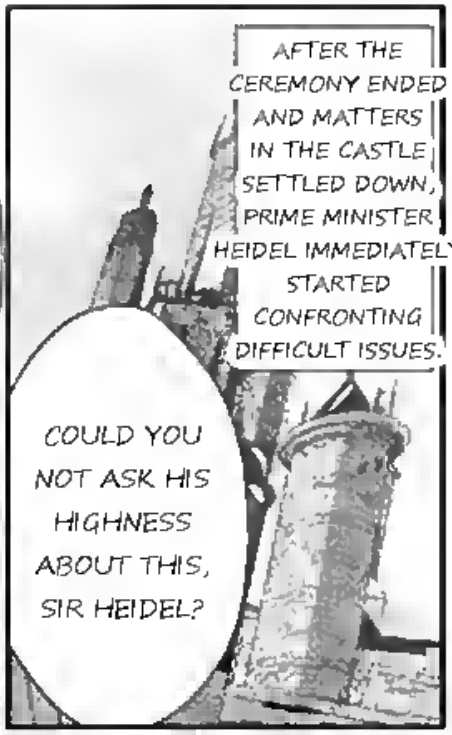
I HAVE CONSIDERED VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES BEFORE COMING TO THIS DECISION.
THOUGH THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETAIN THE SMALLEST FORCE NECESSARY FOR MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER.
BECAUSE OF THIS CONFLICT, NOBLES ARE FORBIDDEN FROM POSSESSING THEIR OWN ARMIES,
SO HE REALLY IS DISSOLVING THE NOBLES' ARMIES... WELL, I HAD EXPECTED IT TO EVENTUALLY HAPPEN...
AT THE SAME TIME,

AND THE FOUR DUKES' ARMIES WILL BE MERGED INTO THIS ARMY.
THE ROYAL GUARD WILL BE EXPANDED TO BE COMPOSED OF LAND, SEA, AND AIR FORCES.
I HOPE THE ROYAL GUARD WILL PERFORM JUST AS WELL AS THEY DID IN THIS CONFLICT.
PLEASE MAKE GOOD USE OF OUR ELITES.
WHILE THERE ARE NO DOUBT SOME WHO ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NOBLES' ARMIES, THE FACT THAT THE FOUR DUKES HAVE ACCEPTED THEIR POSITION AS THE ROYAL FAMILY'S RETAINERS MEANS THAT THERE ISN'T ANYONE CAPABLE OF REBELLING.

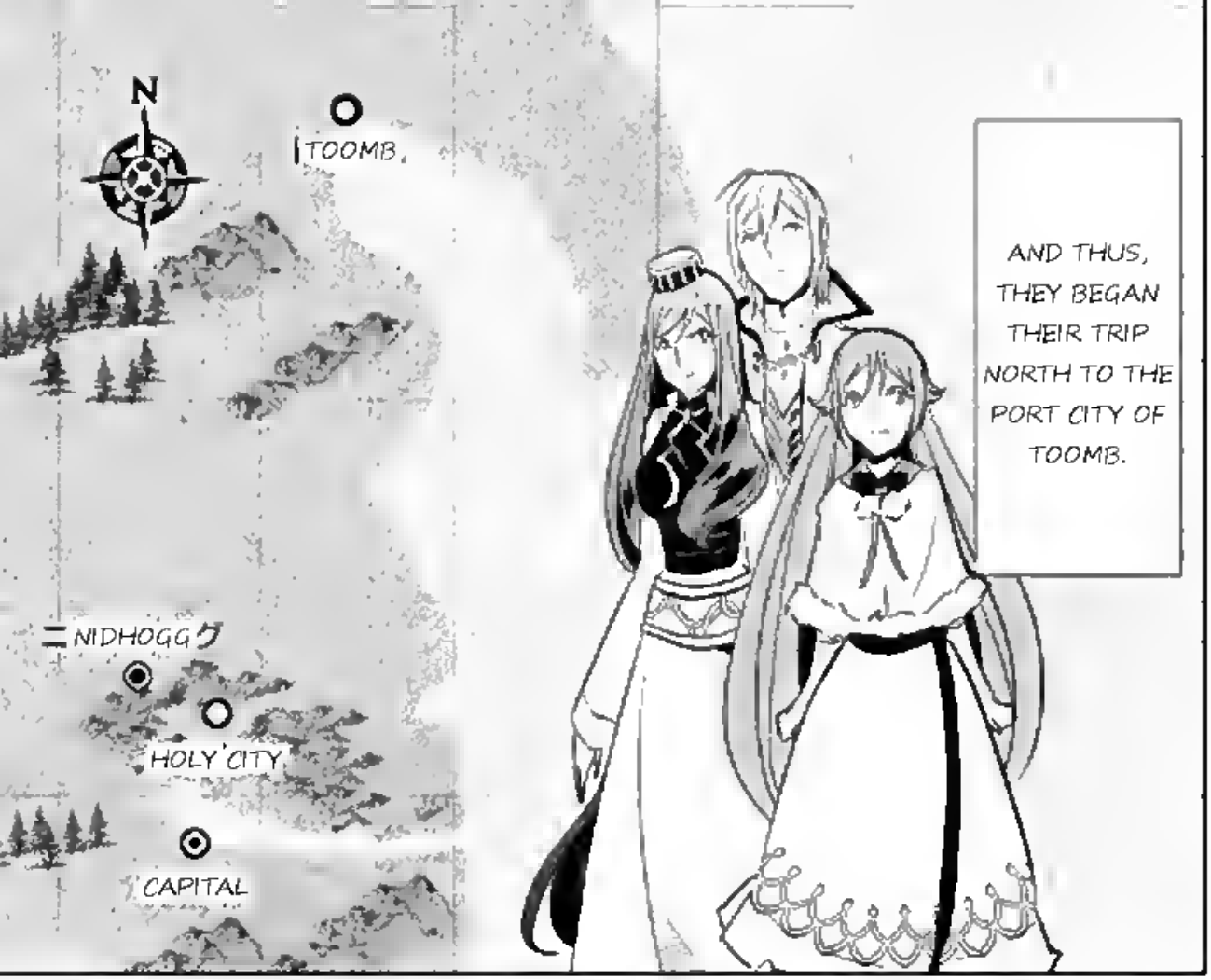
I WILL WORK ALL OF YOU TO THE BONE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COUNTRY!
AND I SWEAR TO REPAY YOU FOR THAT!
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR DEDICATION!
YES!

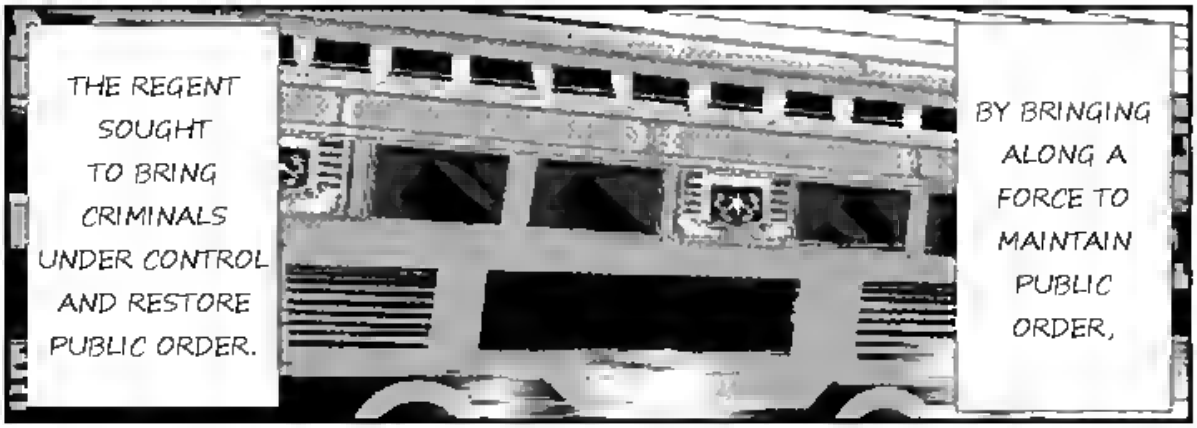

4TH MONTH OF YEAR 2009 IN THE KINGDOM'S CALENDAR
LECTIVAL SPRANG OUT ONTO THE POLITICAL STAGE.

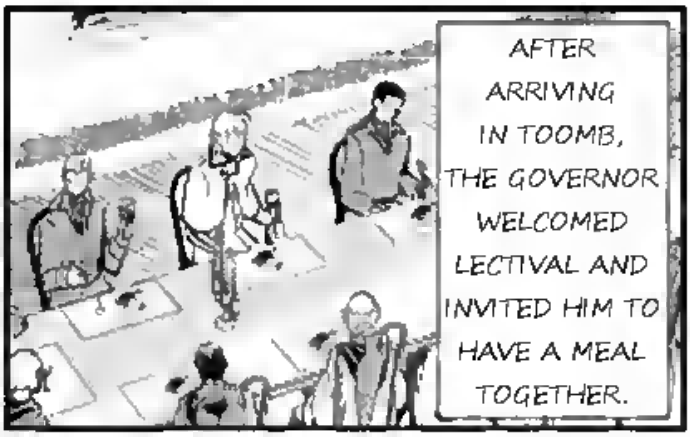
AT THE VERY LEAST, TO PICK A MORE SAFE LOCATION THIS TIME...
I TOO HAD THOUGHT ABOUT THAT,

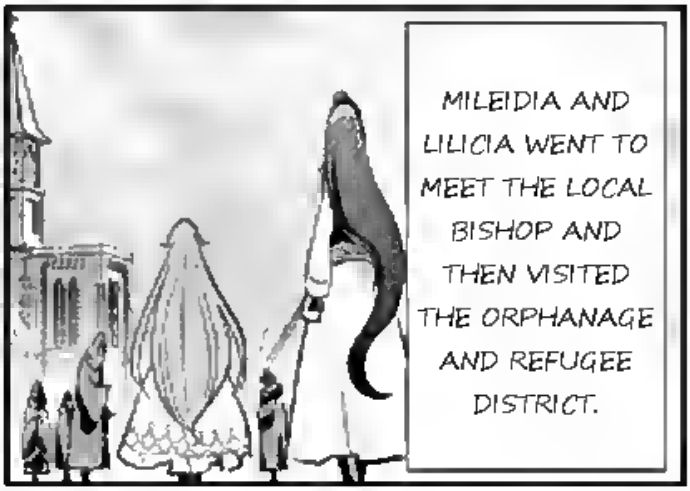

AFTER THE CEREMONY ENDED AND MATTERS IN THE CASTLE SETTLED DOWN, PRIME MINISTER HEIDEL IMMEDIATELY STARTED CONFRONTING DIFFICULT ISSUES.
COULD YOU NOT ASK HIS HIGHNESS ABOUT THIS, SIR HEIDEL?

WHILE THE FORCES MAINTAINING ORDER IN THE REGION ARE HAVING A TOUGH TIME, I CAN UNDERSTAND GOING TO THE NORTHERN REGION TO PACIFY THE PEOPLE WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH POVERTY.
BUT "ORDERING" US...
HOWEVER, HIS HIGHNESS ISN'T "PROBING" US,
LECTIVAL HAD DECIDED TO GO AND INSPECT THE NORTHERN REGION WITH ARCHBISHOP MILEIDIA AND SHRINE MAIDEN LILICIA.

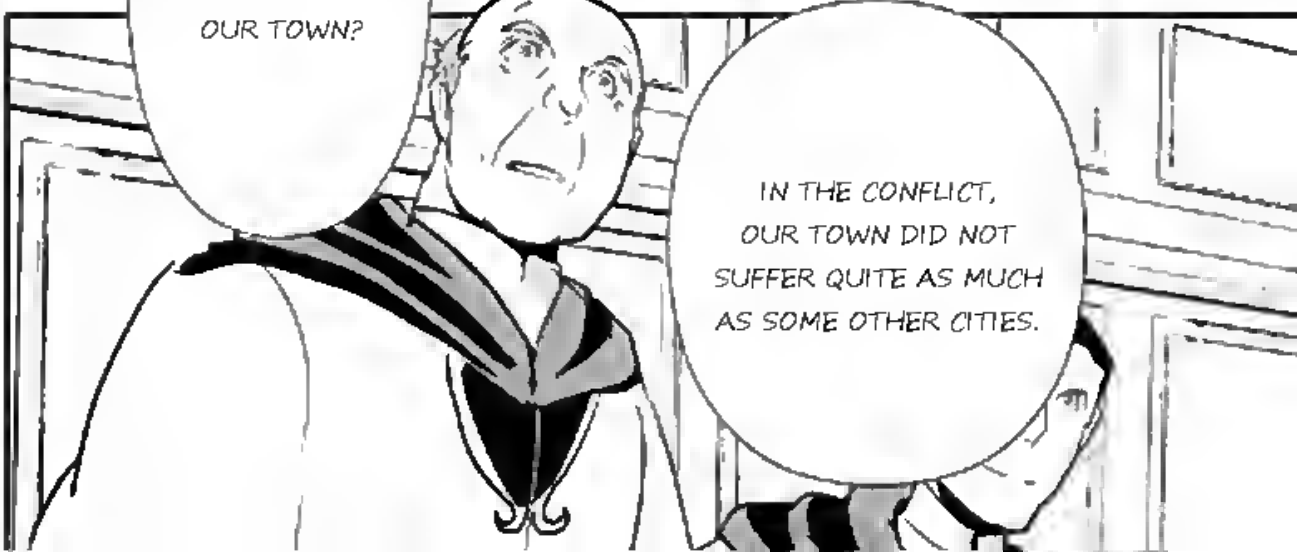

N
TOOMB
NIDHOGG
HOLY CITY
CAPITAL
AND THUS, THEY BEGAN THEIR TRIP NORTH TO THE PORT CITY OF TOOMB.


THE REGENT SOUGHT TO BRING CRIMINALS UNDER CONTROL AND RESTORE PUBLIC ORDER.
BY BRINGING ALONG A FORCE TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER,


AFTER ARRIVING IN TOOMB, THE GOVERNOR WELCOMED LECTIVAL AND INVITED HIM TO HAVE A MEAL TOGETHER.


MILEIDIA AND LILICIA WENT TO MEET THE LOCAL BISHOP AND THEN VISITED THE ORPHANAGE AND REFUGEE DISTRICT.

SEEING YOUR HIGHNESS WORKING SO HARD HAS GOTTEN THIS OLD MAN'S BLOOD PUMPING AGAIN.

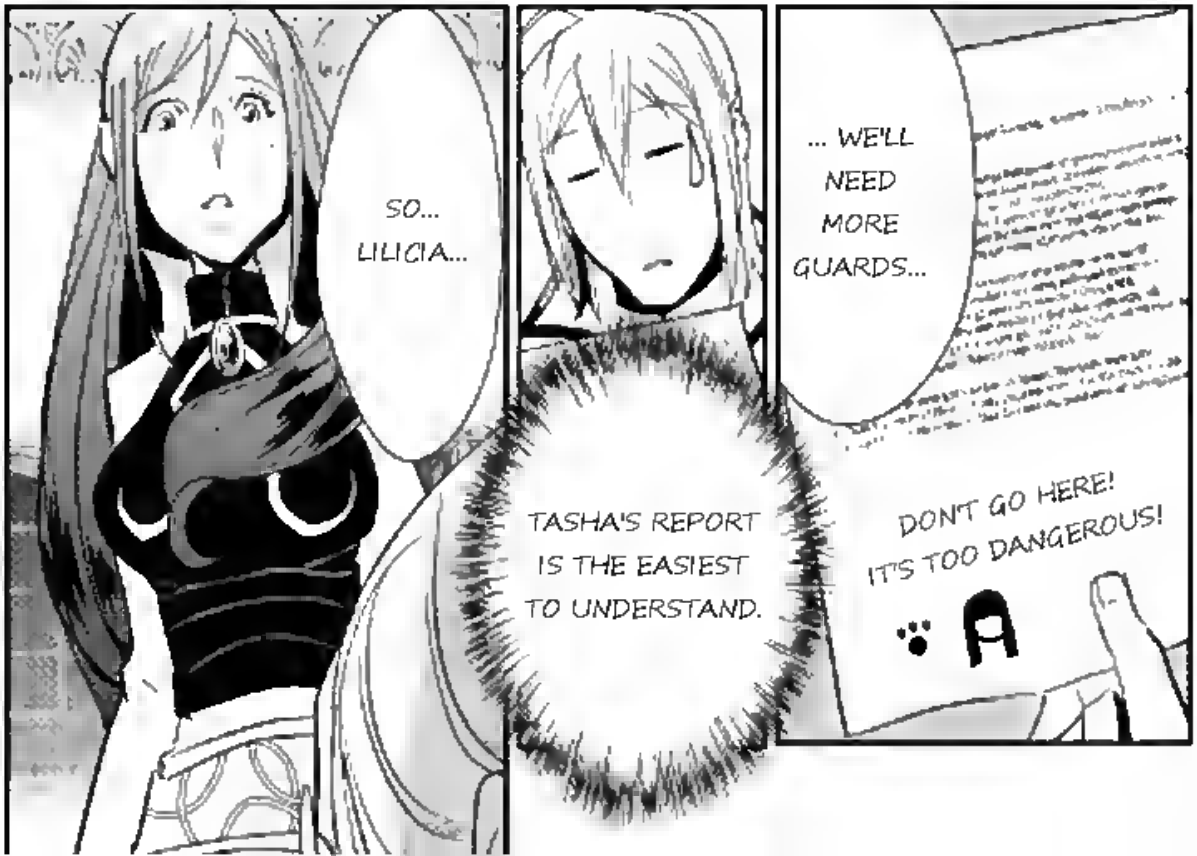

THAT SAID, WHY VISIT OUR TOWN?
IN THE CONFLICT, OUR TOWN DID NOT SUFFER QUITE AS MUCH AS SOME OTHER CITIES.

I INTEND TO EVENTUALLY VISIT THOSE TOWNS,
BUT I IMAGINE THEY WOULD JUST BE TROUBLED BY A VISIT FROM THE MAN THAT WILL SUCCEED THE KING.
WHAT THEY TRULY NEED RIGHT NOW IS MONEY, FOOD, AND GOODS.
IF HIS MAJESTY HAD PUT MORE THOUGHT IN AND ACTED, THEY COULD BE COMFORTED MUCH SOONER.
I HAD HEARD THAT THE REGENT WAS BRAVE AND DECISIVE,
BUT IT SEEMS HE'S ALSO SENSITIVE AND PRUDENT...
I SEE, I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR ASKING SUCH A THING.
IT'S FINE.
PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON ME TO ENSURE I DON'T ACT LIKE HIS MAJESTY THEN.
HA HA HA!

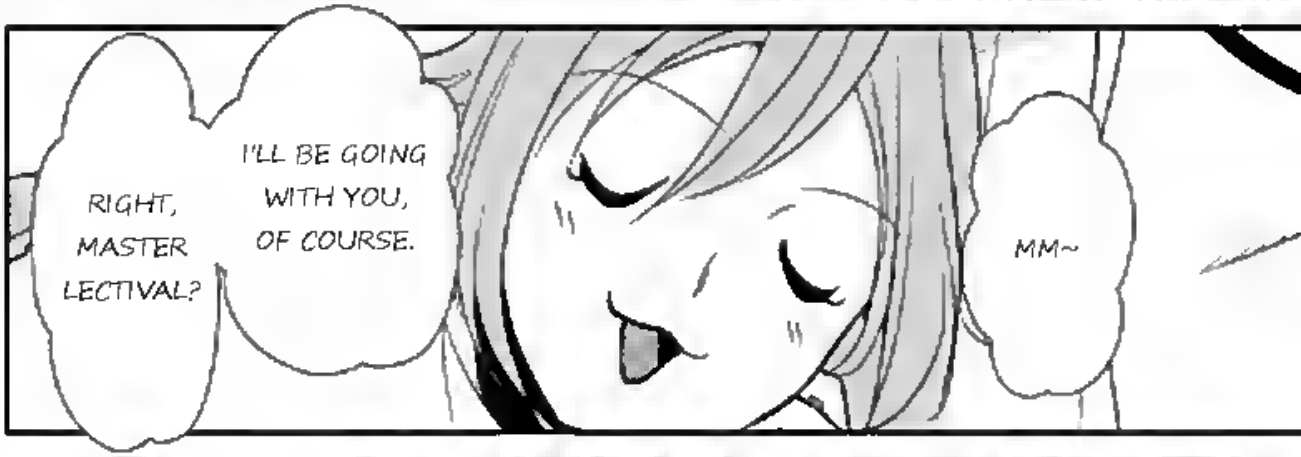
SO, MILEIDIA,
WAS THERE ANY RISK OF THE TEMPLE HERE REBELLING?
NO,
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING THAT WOULD HINT TO THAT.

IT SEEMS THERE'S LESS RISK OF REBELLION IN CITIES LIKE TOOMB.
WE'LL PROBABLY NEED TO GO FURTHER NORTH.

THE DUKES' REPORTS ON THE REGIONS WERE POSTPONED UNTIL THAT DAY.
THE DISPLEASURE IS STRONGEST IN THE AREAS THAT WERE EXPOSED TO WAR BEFORE AND AFTER THE KING'S DEPOSITION.
I SEE. I GUESS WE'LL BE GOING TOMORROW THEN.


SO... LILICIA...
TASHA'S REPORT IS THE EASIEST TO UNDERSTAND.
... WE'LL NEED MORE GUARDS...
DON'T GO HERE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

WILL YOU QUIT TOMORROW?


I'LL BE GOING WITH YOU, OF COURSE.
RIGHT, MASTER LECTIVAL?
MM~

NO, SHE'S JUST AN AIRHEAD WHO WANTS TO BE PAMPERED...
AND THEN THERE'S MY BROTHER-IN-LAW JUST DOING HIS OWN THING...

MASTER LECTIVAL, ARE YOU LISTENING?
この場和らげあえてリリシ〜のか？
IS SHE DOING THAT TO EASE THE TENSION IN HERE?

MASTER LECTIVAL!
YES?!
I WAS LISTENING! S-SORRY...
TO THROW OFF THE GUARDS' ATTACKS, THE BANDITS HAVE DESTROYED THIS MAJOR ROAD,
WHICH IS THE ONLY PATH HEADING NORTH.
LILICIA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

IF IT'S COLD, YOU CAN WAIT IN THE CARRIAGE.
NO, I'M DEFINITELY GOING WITH YOU!
MY PLACE IS BY YOUR SIDE!
WE'LL PICK A SAFER ROUTE ALONG THE WAY,
BUT PLEASE TAKE CARE.
WELL, LET'S GO.